Promotion of Horticulture in Meghalaya

*111. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise financial assistance granted by Government to promote Horticulture in Meghalaya during the last five years and till date;

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard during this period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) To promote the development of Horticulture in Meghalaya, Government of India is implementing the following schemes:

(i) Integrated Development of Tropical Temperate and Arid Fruits.

(ii) Integrated programme for development of cashew nuts.

(iii) Use of plastics in agriculture.

(iv) Development of commercial floriculture.

(v) Development of mushroom.

(vi) Integrated programme for the development of spices

(vii) Development of Vegetable.

(viii) Development of Root and Tuber Crops.

(ix) Development of Betelvine (since discontinued).

(x) Programmes of National Horticulture Board.

The fund is released to the State Government and district-wise allocation is made by the Government of Meghalaya on the basis of needs and priorities. During the last five years, an amount of Rs. 357.76 lakh has been released to the Government of Meghalaya under these schemes as per the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The following is the release and utilisation during the last five years.

(Rs. in lakh)

	Release	Utilisation
1995-96	76.42	47.20
1996-97	64.33	83.14
1997-98	64.48	1.13
1998-99	125.50	50.55
1999-00	27.03	0.00

The following has been the physical achievements:

Floriculture: Area covered 10ha. by 100 units.

Mushroom: One unit of Mushroom production has been set up at Upper Shillong and another unit is under construction at Tura in West Garo Hills District.

Cashew: One Regional Cashew Nursery is being established in Garo Hills region.

Fruits: Area Expansion-Banana 213.60 ha.

Citrus 272.64 ha.

684 farmers have been trained.

Root and Tuber Crops: True potato seed cultivation demonstration conducted at 350 units. 875 minikits distributed.

Vegetables: 3066 minikits distributed.

Spices: 3972 tonnes of ginger rhizomes produced and distributed. 77.45 lakhs black pepper cuttings distributed. 143 tonnes of turmeric produced and distributed. 37500 numbers of seedlings of tree spices distributed.

Plastics: 542 units of low cost green houses set up, 17 units of drip and 12 units of sprinkler set up.

Betelvine: 8.42 lakhs cuttings of betelvine produced and distributed.

Statement

Funds released to State Government of Meghalaya

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-1999		1999-2000	Unspent	
	Release	Utilisa-tion	Release	Utilisa-tion	Release	Utilisa-tion	Release	Utilisa-tion	Release	Utilisa-tion	Balance as on date
Floriculture	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	8.00
Mushroom	29.50	6.00	15.00	13.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00
Fruits	33.90	12.18	0.00	21.73	10.30	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.89
Root and tuber crops	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.28	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.25	0.00	0.90
Spices	8.00	22.24	18.85	18.83	40.05	0.00	40.00	40.00	15.00	0.00	53.61
Vegetables	1.50	1.00	1.82	1.16	2.80	0.00	5.70	2.30	4.50	0.00	11.66
Plastics	0.00	0.00	19.81	20.26	0.00	1.13	45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.69
Cashewnut	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	14.30	0.00	4.28	0.00	22.58
Betelvine*	1.17	1.43	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHB	1.50	1.50	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
	76.42	47.20	64.33	83.14	64.48	1.13	125.50	50.55	27.03	0.00	193.33

*The scheme regarding Development of Betelvine has been discontinued in the IXth Plan.